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WYOMING

VOL. 21 NO. 9 OCT. 1984

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Oct. '84	Sept. '84
Labor Force	255,669	257,845
Employment	242,462	245,656
Unemployment	13,207	12,189
Rate (Raw)	5.2	4.7
Rate (S.A.)	5.8	5.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.76	$13.07
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.8	43.2
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.4	7.4
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.58	$11.65
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.6	43.9
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	315.3	314.5
Denver (Bimonthly)		351.3
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.2	+4.2

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE UNITED STATES

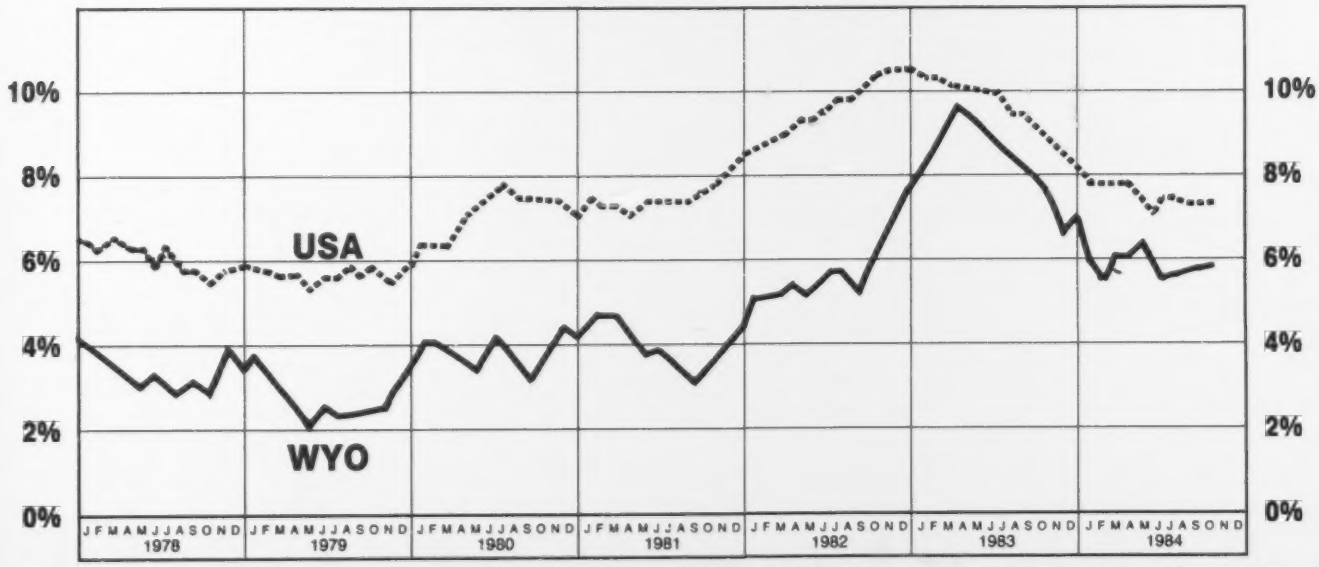
U.S. employment was up and the number of unemployed remained unchanged from September, according to seasonally adjusted data released for October by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The civilian unemployment rate remained at 7.4 percent, 3.3 percentage points below the November 1982 recession high, and civilian employment increased by 350,000 to 105.6 million in October. The monthly employment increase occurred entirely among adults.

The labor force participation rate, which is the labor force as a percent of the noninstitutional population, stood at 64.4 percent in October. Adult men continued with a much higher participation rate, at 78.3 percent, as compared to adult women at 53.9 percent.

U.S. NOVEMBER RATE DROPS TO 7.2 PERCENT

The recently released national unemployment rate for November fell to 7.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. This is the lowest unemployment recorded since June of this year when the rate was 7.1 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT AT 5.8 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October registered 5.8 percent, up a bit from the 5.5 and 5.7 percent of August and September, and 1.6 percentage points below the national average. The October 1983 rate was 7.3 percent.

The employed labor force continues to shrink from last year levels, down over 5,100 job holders from a year ago, a decline of over 2 percent. The unemployment rate, down largely due to outmigration of the unemployed, will not see a further significant decline until job opportunities expand.

Outmigration of the unemployed, due to the job mobility of mining and construction workers, has held the Wyoming jobless rate under the national average, as illustrated by the graph on the cover page. Even during the spring of 1983, when seasonally adjusted unemployment reached 9.8 percent and was the highest in the state since 1963, Wyoming was still one percentage point below the U.S. peak recessionary level of 10.8 percent at the end of 1982.

NATIVE WYOMINGITES, A SCARCE COMMODITY

The U.S. Bureau of the Census determined that in 1980 only 39 percent of all the people living in Wyoming were actually born in the state. This ranks Wyoming fifth among the states, behind Nevada, Florida, Alaska and Arizona for the smallest proportion of natives. Nevada, at 21 percent, had the fewest natives and Pennsylvania at 82 percent had the most.

INDUSTRIAL TRENDS

In Wyoming the only noteworthy annual employment gains in the major industrial sectors took place in Contract Construction, up 4,800 workers and 28 percent.

Manufacturing was up 400 workers and 5 percent. Trade, Finance, Insurance & Real Estate and Services held at about year ago levels in October. Mining, Transportation & Public Utilities, and Government employment were down from a year ago by 2,500, 400 and 400 workers, respectively.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The most recent data available for all 50 states is for September, in which Wyoming's unadjusted unemployment was 4.7 percent. Of the border states, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Colorado had higher unemployment rates of 6.2, 5.6, 5.6 and 4.8 percent. Nebraska and South Dakota had lower rates, both at 3.6 percent.

In the nation New Hampshire continued with the lowest rate, 2.8 percent, and West Virginia continues to have the highest rate at 13.1 percent.

WYOMING DESIGNATED AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The entire state of Wyoming was recently designated as an Area of Substantial Unemployment (ASU) by the U.S. Department of Labor. The state qualified as an ASU because the average unemployment rate exceeded 6.5 percent in a specified 12 month time period. As an ASU Wyoming will receive additional federal funding for the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). For additional information on JTPA, which provides training in certain fields and employer incentives, contact any Job Service Center.

WYOMING SECOND QUARTER 1984 WAGES UP 2.2 PERCENT

Recently compiled employer contribution data for the second quarter of 1984 indicate an annual gain of 2.2 percent in the all industry average weekly wage. The all industry average of $346 a week, about $18,000 a year, includes almost 16,700 firms employing over 189,500 workers who are covered by the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Law. The consumer price index was up 4.3 percent annually during the same time frame.

First quarter 1984 wages, at $348 a week for all industries, were also up 2.4 percent over the year. Thus far, 1984 compares favorably with 1983, when the average weekly wage, at $341, was down 1.5 percent from 1982. Among the states, Wyoming had the only pay decline in 1983 and was just 1.7 percent above the national average.

In the second quarter of 1984, Campbell and Sweetwater counties had the highest weekly wage of $435, or over $22,600 a year. Teton County, at $230, had the lowest average weekly wage among the counties.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

The highest rate of unemployment continued in Fremont County, at 7.2 percent, followed by Niobrara County at 6.9 percent. The Casper area, Natrona County, continued with the highest number of unemployed with almost 2,100 jobseekers. Laramie and Fremont counties followed with 1,700 and 1,300 unemployed. Statewide, the number of unemployed increased monthly by over 1,000, to approximately 13,200 out of work. Monthly seasonal unemployment gains will probably continue through January or February of next year. For more detail please refer to Table 2.

LINCOLN COUNTY CLASSIFIED AS A LABOR SURPLUS AREA

Lincoln County is currently the only area in Wyoming classified as a labor surplus area by the U.S. Department of Labor. Employers located in labor surplus areas can be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in most severe economic need; areas with the highest rate of unemployment.

WYOMING LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE RANKS 2ND

In 1983 the U.S. labor force participation rate was 64.0 percent. This compares to Wyoming's rate, for the same year, of 72.4 percent, tied with Nevada for the second highest in the nation behind Alaska.

The male participation rate was 84.5 percent, compared to 60.7 percent for women. West Virginia had the lowest participation rate with 52.4 percent.

In spite of the yearly increase in unemployment in 1983, 8.4 percent annual average compared to 5.8 percent in 1982, the 1983 participation rate was up from 71.4 percent in 1982.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
October 1984	315.3	304.4	341.2	253.8	205.7	315.5	385.5
Annual % Change	4.2	3.9	4.4	5.6	2.5	3.4	6.2

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
October 1984	312.2	304.0	335.5	253.1	204.8	317.8	383.7
Annual % Change	3.6	3.8	3.2	5.5	2.5	3.6	6.3

RECENT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PUBLICATIONS

- **1985 Wyoming Annual Planning Report;** a comprehensive analysis of labor market developments for the state and its counties.
- **State and County Summary of Covered Employment Annual Report;** gives average employment and average weekly wages by industry for the state and its counties for 1981, 1982, and 1983.
- **Third Quarter 1984 Report of Applicants and Job Openings;** comes from information supplied by Wyoming's 16 Job Service Centers entailing an analysis of job openings and applicants and characteristics of both.
- **Occupational Employment Statistics, Manufacturing and Hospitals in Wyoming: 1983;** based on a sample of these industries, this report identifies the staffing patterns and occupations comprising these industries.
- **The Statistical Review of Wyoming;** not published since the mid-1970's, this 150 page report compiles all the significant data generated by the Wyoming Employment Security Commission from 1939 to 1984.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	OCT 1984 [1]	SEP 1984 [1]	OCT 1983 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	255,669	257,845	264,851	- 0.8	- 3.5
Unemployment	13,207	12,189	17,268	8.3	- 23.5
Employed Labor Force	242,462	245,656	247,583	- 1.3	- 2.1
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) [3]	191,000	194,300	194,261	- 1.7	- 1.7
b. Agriculture [3]	13,175	16,469	13,418	- 20.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	5.2% 5.8%*	4.7% 5.7%*	6.5% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.0% 7.4%*	7.1% 7.4%*	8.4% 8.8%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) [4]	1.4%	1.2%	2.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 558.89	$ 564.62	$ 506.74	- 1.0	10.3
Average Weekly Hours	43.8	43.2	40.8	1.4	7.4
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.76	$ 13.07	$ 12.42	- 2.4	2.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	14,085	11,082	34,075	27.1	- 58.7
a. Initial	2,468	1,580	3,575	56.2	- 31.0
Weeks Compensated	10,460	8,402	21,368	24.5	- 51.0
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,472,168	$ 1,230,131	$ 2,661,187	19.7	- 44.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 140.74	$ 146.41	$ 124.54	- 3.9	13.0
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,184	3,565	2,708	- 10.7	17.8
Non-Ag. Openings Received	3,214	4,048	2,284	- 20.6	40.7
Non-Ag. Placements	3,136	3,492	2,007	- 10.2	56.3
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 504.89	$ 511.44	$ 489.46	- 1.3	3.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.6	43.9	43.2	- 0.7	0.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.58	$ 11.65	$ 11.33	- 0.6	2.2
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	315.3	314.5	302.6	0.3	4.2
Producer Prices, All Commodities	309.5	309.4	306.0	0.0	1.1
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	304.4	304.2	292.9	0.1	3.9

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 2

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	OCT 1984	SEP 1984	OCT 1983	%CHANGE SEP-OCT	%CHANGE OCT-OCT	OCT 1984	SEP 1984	OCT 1983	OCT 1984	SEP 1984	OCT 1983
Statewide	255,669	257,845	264,851	- 0.8	- 3.5	13,207	12,189	17,268	5.2	4.7	6.5
Albany	14,714	15,217	14,947	- 3.3	- 1.6	419	456	609	2.8	3.0	4.1
Big Horn	5,322	5,421	5,701	- 1.8	- 6.6	259	257	304	4.9	4.7	5.3
Campbell	18,208	18,031	19,675	1.0	- 7.5	961	811	1,030	5.3	4.5	5.2
Carbon	9,384	9,216	10,486	1.8	- 10.5	520	410	864	5.5	4.4	8.2
Converse	6,869	6,972	7,443	- 1.5	- 7.7	361	367	452	5.3	5.3	6.1
Crook	3,029	3,059	3,148	- 1.0	- 3.8	127	108	146	4.2	3.5	4.6
Fremont	18,299	18,308	20,473	- 0.1	- 10.6	1,317	1,329	2,320	7.2	7.3	11.3
Goshen	7,164	7,284	7,286	- 1.6	- 1.7	283	322	254	3.9	4.4	3.5
Hot Springs	3,020	3,003	3,081	0.6	- 2.0	113	111	113	3.7	3.7	3.7
Johnson	4,306	4,144	4,633	3.9	- 7.1	149	92	215	3.4	2.2	4.6
Laramie	35,047	35,096	33,457	- 0.1	4.8	1,650	1,444	2,046	4.7	4.1	6.1
Lincoln	6,172	6,308	6,189	- 2.2	- 0.3	367	300	477	5.9	4.8	7.7
Natrona	39,816	39,334	39,490	1.2	0.8	2,057	2,024	3,018	5.2	5.1	7.6
Niobrara	1,809	1,721	1,754	5.1	3.1	124	83	82	6.9	4.9	4.7
Park	13,489	14,917	13,722	- 9.6	- 1.7	562	553	582	4.2	3.7	4.2
Platte	3,837	3,953	4,239	- 2.9	- 9.5	246	281	333	6.4	7.1	7.9
Sheridan	14,325	14,082	14,673	1.7	- 2.4	971	848	945	6.8	6.0	6.4
Sublette	2,329	2,434	2,596	- 4.3	- 10.3	56	79	130	2.4	3.3	5.0
Sweetwater	20,618	20,164	23,467	2.3	- 12.1	1,194	1,107	1,856	5.8	5.5	7.9
Teton	7,363	9,164	7,462	- 19.7	- 1.3	416	264	390	5.7	2.9	5.2
Uinta	11,460	11,118	11,441	3.1	0.2	663	608	584	5.8	5.5	5.1
Washakie	5,449	5,303	5,585	2.8	- 2.4	239	196	272	4.4	3.7	4.9
Weston	3,639	3,596	3,900	1.2	- 6.7	155	137	244	4.3	3.8	6.3

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	OCT 1984[2]	SEP 1984[3]	OCT 1983	SEP 1984	OCT 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to OCT 1984	to OCT 1984
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	207.2	209.8	205.3	- 1.2	0.9
Manufacturing	9.3	9.0	8.9	3.3	4.5
Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.0	0.0	5.0
Nondurable Goods	5.1	4.8	4.9	6.3	4.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	197.9	200.8	196.4	- 1.4	0.8
Mining	26.3	26.5	28.8	- 0.8	- 8.7
Contract Construction	22.0	23.2	17.2	- 5.2	27.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.1	16.4	16.5	- 1.8	- 2.4
Railroad Transportation	3.2	3.3	3.5	- 3.0	- 8.6
Transportation except Railroads	6.1	6.3	6.1	- 3.2	0.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.8	6.8	6.9	0.0	- 1.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.1	44.7	44.3	- 1.3	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade	8.6	8.7	8.8	- 1.1	- 2.3
Retail Trade	35.5	36.0	35.5	- 1.4	0.0
Food Stores	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.1	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.1	6.3	5.7	- 3.2	7.0
Eating & Drinking Places	10.0	12.1	12.7	- 0.8	- 5.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.6	7.6	7.6	0.0	0.0
Services	30.7	32.8	30.5	- 6.4	0.7
Personal Services	1.9	2.0	1.7	- 5.0	11.8
Medical & Other Health Services	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0
Government	51.1	49.6	51.5	3.0	- 0.8
Federal Government	7.5	7.4	6.9	1.4	8.7
State & Local Government	43.6	42.2	44.6	3.3	- 2.2
State Government	12.9	12.3	13.0	4.9	- 0.8
Local Government	30.7	29.9	31.6	2.7	- 2.8

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	OCT 1984[2]	SEP 1984 [3]	OCT 1983	SEP 1984	OCT 1983
	Total	Total	Total	to OCT 1984	to OCT 1984
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.6	35.5	34.5	0.3	3.2
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.3	0.0	15.4
Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	34.1	34.0	33.2	0.3	2.7
Mining	5.4	5.3	5.0	1.9	8.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.8	4.7	4.5	2.1	6.7
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Contract Construction	2.7	3.0	2.3	10.0	17.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.4	0.0	- 12.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.5	9.6	9.2	- 1.0	3.3
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.5	- 2.8	0.0
Retail Trade	6.0	6.0	5.7	0.0	5.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	- 3.4
Government	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.1	4.5
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	6.4	6.0	6.1	6.7	4.9
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.9	31.4	29.9	- 1.6	3.3
Manufacturing	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.9	30.4	28.9	- 1.6	3.5
Contract Construction	2.2	2.3	1.8	- 4.3	22.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.3	3.5	3.7	- 5.7	- 10.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.3	7.5	7.1	- 2.7	2.8
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.8	0.8	12.5	12.5
Retail Trade	6.4	6.7	6.3	- 4.5	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Services & Miscellaneous	5.8	6.0	5.1	- 3.3	12.3
Government	9.5	9.3	9.5	2.2	0.0
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
State & Local Government	7.1	6.9	7.2	2.9	- 1.4

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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